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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant: Toshio TAKAHASHI

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AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

Mail Stop NON-FEE AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

PO Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated April 10, 2003 (Paper No. 3).

The amendments presented below are in compliance with the **revised amendment format** permitted in the Notice from the Office of Patent Legal Administration of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office dated January 31, 2003. Thus, the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.121 are waived for amendments made to the claims in this response.

This response is being submitted within the shortened statutory period for reply to the Office Action. However, should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge **Deposit Account No. 19-0741** for any such fees; and applicant(s) hereby petition for any needed extension of time.